



Michigan League FOR Human Services

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MICHIGAN'S POVERTY RATE AMONG FASTEST RISING IN COUNTRY *Median income in state drops since 2001*

Michigan has one of the fastest rising poverty rates in the country, according to new U.S. Census data released today.

There were 13.3 percent, or 1.3 million Michigan residents, living in poverty in 2006. That compares with 12.3 percent nationally.

The state's poverty rate rose 3 percentage points when a two-year average in 2000-01 average is compared with the 2005-06 average. Only five states experienced a greater increase from 2000-01.

Michigan ranks 20th among the states for the percent of its population living in poverty. There were 17.8 percent of children living in poverty, up from 14.2 percent in 2001.

"This is, indeed, a disappointing trend," said Ann Marston, president and CEO of the Michigan League for Human Services. "We know kids growing up in poverty have much harder time in school and with health issues."

The trend shows the need to educate workers to fit the demands of the labor market.

"As we experience this shift from manufacturing to service jobs, people need to be equipped to move into service jobs that pay decently, and not just the ones that pay minimum wage," Marston said.

Median income also dropped from \$50,698 in 2001 to \$47,182 in 2006. Those numbers are adjusted for inflation.

Michigan also had 116,000 children who had no health insurance of any kind in 2006.

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Other resources:

Center for Civil Justice
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